

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 02577 041655Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00  
TRSE-00 AGRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 /076 W  
-----040202 041721Z /43

O R 041630Z OCT 77  
FM USMISSION USBERLIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5421  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2577

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINR, GE  
SUBJECT: RUMORED ARREST OF GDR AGRICULTURE MINISTER FOR ESPIONAGE

1. BERLIN DAILY MORGENPOST (SPRINGER CHAIN) CARRIED STORY  
ON OCTOBER 4 FROM SPRINGER WIRE SERVICE ALLEGING THAT HEINZ  
KUHRIG, GDR MINISTER FOR FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS  
HAS BEEN ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF ESPIONAGE. KUHRIG, STORY  
CONTINUES, HAS NOT BEEN SEEN PUBLICLY SINCE AUGUST 19 AND IS  
THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO INTERROGATION CENTER AT HOHEN-  
SCHOENHAUSEN. STORY POINTS OUT THAT KUHRIG LAST MENTIONED  
IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON AUGUST 12.

2. MORGENPOST EFFORTS TO REACH WIFE OF KUHRIG WERE UN-  
AVAILABLE SINCE EAST BERLIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES WHERE SHE  
WORKS WOULD ONLY SAY SHE WAS ON LEAVE.

3. KUHRIG WAS BORN 1929 IN STREHLA, KREIS RIESA AND  
WAS TRAINED AS ELECTRICAL ENGINEER. PLEASE ADVISE MISSION  
IF FURTHER BIO DETAILS WOULD BE USEFUL.

4. RIAS HAS QUERIED SPRINGER WIRE SERVICE ASKING ON  
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WHAT THEY HAD BASED STORY. SPRINGER SERVICE REPLIED  
THAT ALLIES HAD "CONFIRMED IT" (SIC). THE BRITISH (IN THE  
CHAIR THIS MONTH) REPORT THEY HAVE RECEIVED  
NO SUCH INQUIRY FROM ANY PRESS SOURCE. PART-TIME LOCAL  
EMPLOYEE AT U.S. MISSION DID RECEIVE INQUIRY FROM SPRINGER  
PRESS BUT FARE FROM CONFIRMING STORY ADVOCATED  
RESERVE IN HANDLING IT INASMUCH AS IT WAS ONLY A RUMOR.

5. COMMENT: WHILE SPRINGER WIRE SERVICE MAY BE CORRECT  
IN SAYING THAT KUHRIG LAST MENTIONED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND  
ON AUG. 12, WE GATHER THAT HE HELD TELEVISED PRESS  
CONFERENCE SEPT. 20 AT OPENING OF AN EXPOSITION IN  
KFURT AND WAS MENTIONED IN DAS VOLK (PAPER OF ERFURT  
BEZIRK SED COMMITTEE) ON SEPT. 24. GEORGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ESPIONAGE, ARRESTS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977USBERL02577  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770361-1086  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 1037209  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RUMORED ARREST OF GDR AGRICULTURE MINISTER FOR ESPIONAGE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINR, GC, US  
**To:** STATE BERLIN  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
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